

J. M. J.

Our Lady Academy
Manteca, California
January 18, 1943

Reverend Father Alaysius
Immaculate Heart Novitiate
Walnut, California

Dear Father,

For a long time I have been wanting to thank you for your letter which reached me on the feast of the Nativity of Mary. Isn't it loving of God to let it come just then? Your letter brought me much joy. How good God is to let me know and work with you.

Now I have much more to thank you for. I cannot tell you what joy it is to know that my brother John has been to visit you and that your acquaintance means so much to him. He wrote to tell me about his visit and all you had done for him. Then he said, "When we were ready to leave Father gave us his blessing. I felt so very much at home there." I thought, Father, that you would be glad to know how John felt.

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The fruit which you sent my Mother, reached her in good condition. She said she especially enjoyed the grapefruit. I am sure the whole family did. I want to thank you, Father, for being so thoughtful of my Mother and for sending her the roses, too. She said she was going to write to thank you for the interest you have taken in our family and for the time you gave to our John. I, too, want to thank you, Father. How happy I am to know that John had your blessing before he sailed away. He wrote not so long ago, "It's a consoling thought to know that so many people are remembering me in their prayers. Somehow I feel awfully safe. Thanks for your part in making me feel secure." It is glad to know how God makes him feel. Thank you, Father, for your prayers for him. Please pray for John always.

The tangerines which you gave John for me travelled fine and we enjoyed them for quite a while. They were very good. I do wish you could have been here to enjoy some of the teasing which Sister Monica and Sister St. Sebastian gave me about them. You would have had a good laugh. With all their teasing, be sure they enjoyed the tangerines, too. So did Sister Mary Catherine. Thank you, Father, for being so thoughtful of us.

Sometimes I think that if you were here there are many things which I would tell you about. God does not will that you be here for just now, but maybe I can tell you some of the things.

On December 8 we had our usual Sadality reception and ceremony and I was quite busy, but all day you were on my mind and seemed to be with me. If you had

been here in Mantova, I do
not think you could have
seemed any closer. I felt a
strange happiness as if God
were about to do something
wonderful for me, just as I
felt before I made my
perpetual vows. That lasted
all day and I prayed for you.

Then on the Saturday within
the Octave of the Immaculate Conception,
God gave me something very lovely.
We were at Mass in our chapel
and I was reading the Gospel
in my missal. When I read
the Angel Gabriel's words, "Hail!
full of grace!" it seemed as
though something lit up inside
of me and that for one instant
I could realize and appreciate
what it meant for Mary to
be full of grace. It seemed as
though I could experience
for that short time a little
of the depth of the beauty and
loveliness and virtue which
were Mary's. It lasted only an

can give myself to Jesus
without reserve for the Novices.
Some day I think Jesus will
let me do it.

He had Forty Hours in
church in October and in our
chapel in January (this month)
and both times I prayed
much for you and the
Novices. I would be glad
to know whenever the Novices
have a retreat or a
ceremony of profession or
ordination so that I can be
with them in spirit and
pray especially for them.

Sister Mary Catherine asked
me to tell you that she is
still not able to be up and
around very much. She is
very admirable in all her
long siege of sickness.

Please pray for me, Father,
that I may give to God all
He asks of me — even the least
thing. May He bless you abundantly.
Yours missionary sister,
Sister Mary Christine

J. M. J.

St. Patrick Academy,
Momence, Illinois,
January 15, 1943.

Rev. Father Aloysius Ellacuria, C.M.F.,
Immaculate Heart Novitiate,
Walnut, California.

Rev. dear Father:

Thank you very much for your kindness in writing. Your letters and your words of advice mean very much to me and are a constant inspiration to me to lead the life of "completed confidence and abandonment" as you so beautifully expressed it in your wishes to me for the New Year.

I have been particularly anxious to write this letter to you but have been delayed as I was waiting for a definite answer for something for which I am certain you will rejoice with us and thank God for such a wonderful gift on His part.

When I received your letter telling me to read and study Tanquerey, I was exceedingly disappointed that you did not give me your permission to continue to read the life of St. Teresa and the works of St. John of the Cross. However I had promised you obedience and though it was a sacrifice not to read the former, I gave them up and secured Tanquerey at once. I began the Spiritual Life and am really enjoying it and profiting from it. I found out later that we did have a copy of his other book on Doctrine and Devotion so I have that now too and am reading it first as it is not quite as heavy as the Spiritual Life. I took seriously too your admonition on doing what I could as Directress of Studies to popularize Tanquerey among our Sisters. The Holy Spirit must have inspired you to give me this admonition. I wondered just how I could carry it out but I determined to do as you wished. The attitude of many seems to be that Tanquerey is dull and dry and too difficult to understand. A few years ago some of our Sisters followed a course in Tanquerey given at De Paul in Chicago. As a result of this, many secured the book and began a study of it. Yesterday, I received the answer I had been waiting for and it is this. The School Sisters of Notre Dame of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, have definitely affiliated our community, the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary with their college, Mount Mary College for extension work for our Sisters. This means that we shall be able to have summer school classes conducted in Beaverville - some by our own Sisters and others by a priest who could give us the Religion and Philosophy. The outcome of the whole thing is this - I have presented to Reverend Mother and the Provincial Council my suggestions for this coming summer - that we have a course taught on the Spiritual Life using Tanquerey as text. Mount Mary has O. K.'ed this and even consented to our giving a second course in Tanquerey next summer. With this arrangement, most of our Sisters who are studying will be able to remain in Beaverville this summer and study Tanquerey. I expect to have a second course in Ethics - and one either in English or French for our beginning students. Our chief difficulty now is in securing a priest to give this course. Rev. Mother believes that the Viatorian Fathers may be able to spare one of their priests. May I ask you to join me in prayer that the Holy Spirit send us the one who can best give this course in the spirit of our own Father Founder? I firmly believe that it is the Holy Spirit who inspired you to give me this admonition and who has enabled me in this way to obey you and carry out your suggestion. I am so happy over it and feel that an incalculable amount of spiritual good will result from it. I know that you will thank God with me for bringing all this about. It is going to mean so much. Little did I think that this might be possible. You may be interested in knowing that this affiliation comes through a suggestion which Father Hoeger made to me on the closing day of our retreat. We were speaking of

the difficulty of educating our Sisters. Father told me of a plan followed by the Sister of the Blessed Sacrament of whom he ^{is} director, that of affiliation with a Catholic College whereby the Sisters may remain at home and study under their own Sisters and have the work accepted by the college. I have often wished that this might be possible but it seemed impossible. Then during the latter part of August, I visited Mount Mary College in Milwaukee and spoke to the dean about it. The result is as I have explained to you. Of course I do not wish to be too enthusiastic about it as the final plans for the summer are not yet completed and should they not materialize, it would be a big disappointment but I feel certain that God will provide a priest for us for these courses. I wish you were the one who could do so but I realize the impossibility. I shall let you know how things progress but in the meantime I ask your prayers that the Holy Spirit will continue to arrange matters for us. Again I am grateful to you for having told me what you did. I feel that the Holy Spirit inspired you to do so in order to make all of this possible.

I would give anything to be able to see you now and talk things over with you. The past month or more has been exceedingly difficult. It is a little hard to explain just why without mentioning others and I dislike doing this. You know, too, of my practice of adoration, of complete submission to authority in all things. The difficulty now lies in this - there have been some difficulties between Mother and Reverend Mother - and I have been the link between. I feel the necessity of my loyalty to both one and the other. Shortly before Christmas I wrote to Reverend Mother a suggestion which I felt bound in conscience to make concerning a change for a Sister. When I saw Reverend Mother at the time of our last Council meeting, her attitude was that she would act only upon suggestion from the superior and not from a subject. She told me when occasion presented itself to give this answer to my superior. Shortly after, the occasion did present itself. My superior told me to call Rev. Mother and tell her of our plans, etc. I answered, no, that I could not do so as this was her concern as superior and not mine as subject. I was then obliged to tell her what Rev. Mother had said. The outcome of it all was - a closer union and a better understanding between my two superiors, although a source of great suffering for me. I feel in a way that I was politely told to mind my own business and not meddle in those of others. I know that this is not what Reverend Mother meant - she used me as a means of getting this message to Mother. However, knowing me as you do, you can surmise my reaction. I was strongly tempted to write to Rev. Mother and beg her to accept my resignation both as supervisor and councillor. God seemed to ask of me the sacrifice of doing this - so though the tempest raged strongly within, I offered Him this sacrifice for my dear old Mother who is and has been seriously ill. Yesterday I received a letter from Rev. Mother. She said she hoped that this would not keep me from expressing myself to her in the future for it was a help to her as well as to myself. I answered her last evening saying that I hoped not but that I felt I would be exceedingly hesitant in expressing myself to her in the future for I did not wish to meddle into other people's concerns. I told her that where I felt it my duty to speak, I would do so but the big question which tantalized me was: "Just what is my own business and what is not?" Father Schneider has made me see clearly that where I feel it a duty to speak, I must do so, no matter what the consequences may be. As I said to Rev. Mother, the big question is - just what is my concern and what is not? In my work and in my contacts with the Sisters, many things do come to me concerning others upon which I feel it a duty to act and to speak. May I ask you what you think of all of this? Strangely enough, the suggestion which Rev. Mother refused to act upon when it came through me, went through exactly when it came through Mother.

Another question. Mother Imelda has always spoken most confidentially to me. Since she has been superior, she has done so even more. She has usually imposed silence on me but the other day, she forbade me in virtue of my now of obedience ever to speak of what she had told me. This frightens me somewhat. I would rather not be the recipient in such a case - but on the other hand, I feel that perhaps it does do Mother some good to be able to talk to me. I have already learned the lesson of discretion - you may remember my sad lesson concerning it - and I am ex-

ceedingly careful about what I say. Am I doing the right thing in this case? At times things have been very difficult with Mother. God has certainly given her a large share of the cross and things have been very hard for her. I know what a great consolation to her your letter was and I do hope that you will continue to write to her when you can. You would just marvel could you see how things have been going. The direct influence of the Holy Spirit and of Our Blessed Mother are most evident. I have been doing all I can to give my utmost cooperation and I feel that God has blessed my obedience and submission. At times it is exceedingly difficult but I have gone through with it even when I have been contradicted or ridiculed and in the end, He has made known His will and He has righted things. This has been particularly the case in regard to our secular teacher. In the beginning of the year, we were unable to secure a Catholic teacher so we had to accept a non-Catholic lady from town. Shortly before Christmas I heard of a possible candidate. I was strongly in favor of accepting but Mother was not. I offered to give up my will in the matter and let it drop but Mother told me, no, to go ahead. Then when I did go ahead and make plans for accepting the girl, Mother was very much put out about it. I could not feel that I was in the wrong for I had offered to give up my own wishes in the matter. The girl came and is proving most satisfactory. She is a very pious girl, a most exemplary Catholic, an excellent teacher, and a beautiful influence on our girls. Mother herself is very well pleased with her. Mother often tells me to go ahead and then when something turns out unpleasantly, she blames me for having done so, even though she was the one who told me to do so. This is particularly hard to take at times.

I am afraid that this letter is lengthening out pretty much. I am enclosing some Mass stipends which I would appreciate your taking care of - either saying the Masses yourself or having them said.

We are having Forty Hours Devotion in our chapel beginning to-morrow morning. I shall not forget you in my many visits to our dear Lord. I do pray much for you and shall continue to do so. When I can get time to type the retreat notes of our Christmas day of recollection and the children's retreat, I shall be glad to do so for you.

I am continuing to try to preserve equanimity of character and the "perennial smile." I feel that I am not doing much or rather what I should like to do in the matter of prayer, of meditation in particular but I suppose that I should accept our Lord's will in this. I shall continue my practice of "completed confidence" as you suggest. Could you suggest any definite practice of it for my particular examen? I still feel that I am not accomplishing therein what I should. I do feel that my confidence has grown considerably and that it is increasing - yet I know that I can never have too much confidence.

I beg a remembrance in your prayers for my dear old Mother who is and has been very ill. I am not praying that she live but that our dear Lord Himself prepare her beautiful soul for its meeting with Him. She is almost eighty-three years old and is very ill. Life has lost all interest for her and I feel she is merely awaiting the reward of her wonderful Christian life. Will you kindly pray for her? Thank you.

My deepest gratitude, Father, for all you are doing for me. I beg your blessing and a memento in your Holy Sacrifice. May I ask at what hour you usually say it that I may unite with you at that time?

Gratefully in the Holy Heart of Mary

Sister Mary Dolores

J. M. J.

Our Lady Academy
Manteno, Illinois
February 8, 1943.

Dear Reverend Father:

Your letter was received, and as usual was a comfort to me. I feel very much alone at times, and although there are those I can speak to, I do not believe I should make a habit of doing this, because God wants a more whole-hearted dependence on Him. I canwell imagine your chagrin at the unexpected call made upon you at holiday time. God knows those He can count on, so I am sure, you aren't surprised. As my beloved St. Therèsa said to Our Lord: "No wonder you have so few friends". All without exception enjoyed the tangerine treat - not so much because of the fruit - but from whence they came.

I have some Mass stipends I must send you, else I should delay writing for awhile. I shouldn't really be writing when I feel as I do - some days I really think the flood-gates of hell are opened against us in this holy place. I have two subjects that it is "hell" to try and hold them. Forgive me for saying this - but when they come and hurl their imprecations at me in the fashion and manner they do, I feel I am faced with the fury of the infernal Majesty himself. They say, in faith, we should see God in our neighbor. Perhaps my faith is not deep, but God is so hid, if He is there, that I can neither see nor feel His Presence. I have determined on this action with these two, S. I., and S. A. - that where a response is not required, I will strive to follow the example of Christ, be silent, as the meek Lamb of God before His shearers, and avoid looking at them when they speak to me. There is something in their faces that riles me. Speaking as few words as is needful, and refraining from looking at them is a help to me for self-mastery, so I feel I must impose this upon myself. While trying to be silent, and keep silent - I say this little prayer or one similar "Hail Jesus, my sweet Spouse, I love Thee, I adore Thee - but the primary action is I strive to withdraw within and commune with my God, God within me, for I know He is truly there because I do nothing to wilfully displease Him. No matter what my feelings are in this, I know He is with me. And isn't that everything? Do you approve of this action and manner of dealing with these two?

Sometimes I feel almost bitter at God for letting me see people as they are, and wishing I could be wrong, but my convictions are so strong, and I see so clearly (or imagine I do) that it is quite useless to attempt to close my eyes. God forgive me, I am forced to wonder sometimes, if all the charity I ever had hasn't left me forever, and if it isn't all just me.

Tuesday - I shall attempt to finish this letter today. I had to keep myself locked in my room yesterday morning, until the fury of S. I. became sufficiently abated, which accounts for the trend of the above written words. I was asked what I thought about this party, whether I believed she should leave or remain. My answer was: "I do not know where she would do least harm", but so far as advising her is concerned on my part, I do not tell her one thing or the other, I always say it's up to you, Sister, that is your business, you have your own soul to save." To me it seems wise to have nothing to do - outside of prayer, of course. She knows and has been told enough. Do you think me right in this?

I had a card from Mother St. Eugene today, and she tells me Sister Mary Mediatrix fell and hurt her back. I had a nice chat with both of them on January 25th; Sister had been very ill for a few days. It is always such a joy to see her and speak to her.

Our children just completed their annual retreat about a week ago; it was preached by the saintly Father Klyber, he seemed to know you.

By the way, I was recently told that in order to be in accord with the spirit and mind of the church, one should make a manifestation of conscience once or twice a year. Would writing to you fulfill that? - There are so few who really know and understand. Yet, if God wants to put me through the crucible on this point, i guess, there isn't much to do but grit my teeth and say."I will ". God hasn't made me feel He wants anything like that, and i don't believe He will ask it now.

Please pray for us, that we may be all God wants us to be. Remember me in a most special way as i must be mother to the rest, and help them on the road of sanctity. i feel so incapable and so inefficient for the task imposed upon me. I often tell my Loved Master He surely picked a poor weak impoverished child for His work here, but I take consolation in the thought, that the weaker the instrument the more is His power manifest. If He is glorified nothing else really matters.

We are making a daily holy hour from eight to nine for nation-wide peace. On Saturday, January 29th, I had a Mass of thanksgiving said in our chapel for graces received, and i included a special intention for you.

i beg you to remember me, God's needy one.

Respectfully,

Sister Mary